

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USMISSION GENEVA

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TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S MARCH 19 MEETING WITH EBAN

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT BRIEF MEETING WITH PRESS
OF SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN IN STATE DEPT
LOBBY AFTER THEIR TALK MARCH 19.

2. MR. EBAN: I'VE FINISHED THE CONVERSATIONS THAT
I BEGAN WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE LAST WEEK ON THE
MIDDLE EASTERN SITUATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
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OUR HOPES FOR PROMOTING A SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT

AGREEMENT.

3. WE'VE DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE MUTUALLY CONVENIENT FOR OUR REPRESENTATIVE, WHO WILL BE MY COLLEAGUE, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, MR. DAYAN, TO BE HERE LATER THIS MONTH ON THE 29TH OF MARCH, AND HE WILL BE IN THE POSITION TO HAVE A FULL DISCUSSION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF ALL THE IMPLICATIONS AND DETAILS OF A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AS WE SEE IT.

4. AFTER THAT I UNDERSTAND THERE WILL BE FURTHER STAGES IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO USE ITS

GOOD OFFICES TO EXPLORE THE SYRIAN POSITION.

5. ALL I'LL SAY IS THAT WE WANT A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. WE THINK IT WOULD BE A VERY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE PROGRESS ALREADY MADE, AND IF ACHIEVED, IT COULD DIMINISH TENSION AND TAKE US ANOTHER STEP ALONG THE ROAD TOWARDS DIALOGUE AND CO-EXISTENCE.

6. IT IS AN OBJECTIVE THAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE SITUATION. WE APPROACH IT IN THAT POSITIVE SPIRIT.

7. I'D LIKE TO THANK THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND HIS ASSOCIATES FOR THE VERY COMPREHENSIVE OPPORTUNITY THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN TO ME FOR DISCUSSING ALL PROBLEMS RELATING TO ISRAEL, AND FOR THE SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY IN WHICH OUR DISCUSSIONS HAVE EVOLVED.

8. THANK YOU.

9. Q: MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU WISH TO SAY ANYTHING?

10. SECRETARY KISSINGER: I NEVER INTEND TO FOLLOW MY FRIEND, THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL, BUT I AGREE THAT THE CONVERSATIONS WERE IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP THAT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF ALL OF OUR TALKS.
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WE AGREED THAT DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL SHOULD BE THE TOP PRIORITY ITEM IN NEGOTIATIONS NOW GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

11. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE VISIT OF THE ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER HERE ON MARCH 29TH, AND WE ARE HOPEFUL AND CONFIDENT THAT IT WILL MAKE A MARKED STEP FORWARD.

12. Q: MR. SECRETARY, DOES THE DELAY IN TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL TIMETABLE INDICATE ANY KIND OF HANG-UP?

13. SECRETARY KISSINGER: NO. IT SIMPLY TURNED OUT THAT GIVEN THE NECESSITY OF TALKS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE NEED TO PREPARE THE POSITIONS VERY CAREFULLY THAT THIS WAS THE DATE THAT WAS MOST CONVENIENT.

14. I MUST SAY THAT AS FAR AS THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED, THEY WERE PREPARED TO SEND THE DEFENSE MINISTER AT VARIOUS TIMES.

15. Q: MR. SECRETARY, WHEN DOES THE SYRIAN DELEGATE COME?

16. SECRETARY KISSINGER: NOW THAT WE HAVE THE DATE OF GENERAL DAYAN'S VISIT SET, WE WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT TO ARRANGE A DATE FOR THE VISIT OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVE.

17. Q: ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE VISIT AS LAST TIME?

18. A: I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE UNTIL WE HAVE HEARD THE VIEWS OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT.

19. Q: MR. SECRETARY, WILL GENERAL DAYAN JUST BE STAYING FOR ONE OR TWO DAYS, OR WILL THAT BE A FAIRLY EXTENDED DIALOGUE?

20. SECRETARY KISSINGER: I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE. I EXPECT IT WILL BE A GOOD DIALOGUE, BUT I ALSO EXPECT TO GO ON VACATION.

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21. Q: WILL YOU TELL US WHO IS THE SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVE?

22. SECRETARY KISSINGER: WE HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN THE NAME YET.

23. Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATIONS, MR. SECRETARY, THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE TRYING TO SHIFT THE LOCALE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO GENEVA RATHER THAN WASHINGTON?

24. SECRETARY KISSINGER: WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE OF THE PLANS THAT WE HAVE GIVEN TO YOU.

25. Q: MR. MINISTER, MAY I ASK IF YOUR REFERENCES TO GOOD CONVERSATIONS INDICATE THAT ISRAEL HAS SHOWN A

WILLINGNESS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS THAT IT DIDN'T INDICATE
WHEN THE SECRETARY WAS IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

26. MR. EBAN: I THINK YOU ARE CARRYING INTERPRE-
TATION VERY FAR. WE ARE PREPARED FOR THE KIND OF
CONCRETE AND PRAGMATIC COMPROMISE THAT IS NECESSARY TO
REACH AGREEMENT. KISSINGER

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